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## #474276 Interpretation of "Average" patient For ACR CT testing

David Scott Winter, reported 6 days ago

Greetings,

When imaging the ACR phantom, it is supposed to be imaged using manual techniques representative of "average sized patients". There is room for variable interpretations on this, particularly for the adult abdomen. How this is interpreted can have significant impacts on image quality and dose for phantom testing.

Five variant interpretations are as follows.

1. Patients weighing around 70 Kg. The QC manual suggests this, but it is missing from the instructions for phantom submission. However, this weight is not representative of typical patients in the current day/age in many/most parts of the country.
2. Patients weighing around 84 Kg. This is more representative of the US average per the CDC.
3. Patients of average weight for a medical system / region of the country.
4. Patients of average weight for that specific CT scanner (which could be skewed in specialty clinics)
5. Median or average values using some sort of non-weight indicator to determine average (e.g. water equivalent diameter at mid-liver)

Does the ACR have a specific expectation for how this should be interpreted? Or is any approach acceptable provided it has some sort of justifiable rationale to it?

Marcello Acosta

, said 8 minutes ago

Hello David,

"Enter the average technique used on a mid-liver image on an average sized patient."

Enter an "average" technique for a patient on this scanner. This technique should reflect your specific patient population which will vary from location to location and even from scanner to scanner. At present, no further direction is given in this matter.

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Marcello Acosta, R.T. (R)(CT)(MR)(ARRT)

MR/CT Accreditation Specialist, Quality & Safety Dept

Please contact 800-770-0145 for additional questions.

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